



AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended): A stable pharmaceutical composition comprising about 1 wt. % to about 80 wt. % of an ACE inhibitor or a pharmaceutical acceptable salt thereof, about 1 wt. % to about 70 wt. % of an alkali or alkaline earth metal carbonate, and about 1 wt. % to about 80 wt. % of a low-substituted hydroxypropyl cellulose, wherein the ACE inhibitor is selected from the group consisting of quinapril, enalapril, spirapril, ramipril, perindopril, indolapril, lisinopril, alacepril, trandolapril, benazapril, libenzapril, delapril, cilazapril and combinations thereof; wherein the formation of an internal cyclization product, and/or ester hydrolysis product, and/or oxidation product, has been reduced or eliminated, and the weight percents are based on the total weight of the pharmaceutical composition.
2. (original): The composition according to Claim 1, wherein the ACE inhibitor is selected from the group consisting of quinapril, enalapril and spirapril.
3. (original): The composition according to Claim 1, wherein the ACE inhibitor is quinapril hydrochloride.
4. (original): The composition according to Claim 1, wherein the amount of the ACE inhibitor or a pharmaceutical acceptable salt thereof is from about 5 wt. % to about 50 wt. %, based on the total weight of the pharmaceutical composition.
5. (original): The composition according to Claim 4, wherein the amount of the ACE inhibitor or a pharmaceutical acceptable salt thereof is from about 10 wt. % to about 15 wt. %, based on the total weight of the pharmaceutical composition.
6. (original): The composition according to Claim 1, wherein the alkali metal is selected from the group consisting of lithium, sodium, potassium, rubidium, cesium and francium.
7. (original): The composition according to Claim 1, wherein the alkaline earth metal is selected from the group consisting of magnesium, calcium, barium, strontium and radium.

8. (original): The composition according to Claim 7, wherein the alkaline earth metal is magnesium.

9. (original): The composition according to Claim 1, wherein the amount of the alkali or alkaline earth metal carbonate is from about 10 wt. % to about 60 wt. %, based on the total weight of the pharmaceutical composition.

10. (original): The composition according to Claim 9, wherein the amount of the alkali or alkaline earth metal carbonate is from about 45 wt. % to about 55 wt. %, based on the total weight of the pharmaceutical composition.

Claims 11-13 (canceled)

14. (original): The composition according to Claim 1, wherein the low-substituted hydroxypropyl cellulose when dried at 105 °C for 1 hour contains 5-16% of hydroxypropoxy groups.

15. (original): The composition according to Claim 14, wherein the low-substituted hydroxypropyl cellulose when dried at 105 °C for 1 hour contains 10-13% of hydroxypropoxy groups.

16. (original): The composition according to Claim 13, wherein the low-substituted hydroxypropyl cellulose is selected from the group consisting of: LH-11 having a hydroxypropoxy content of 11% and an average particle size of 50 microns; LH-21 having a hydroxypropoxy content of 11% and an average particle size of 40 microns; LH-31 having a hydroxypropoxy content of 11%, and an average particle size of 25 microns; LH-22 having a hydroxypropoxy content of 8%, and an average particle size of 40 microns; LH-32 having a hydroxypropoxy content of 8%, and an average particle size of 25 microns; LH-20 having a hydroxypropoxy content of 13%, and an average particle size of 40 microns; and LH-30 having a hydroxypropoxy content of 13%, and an average particle size of 25 microns.

17. (original): The composition according to Claim 16, wherein the L-HPC is LH-21 or LH-11.

18. (original): The composition according to Claim 1, wherein the hydroxypropyl cellulose is present in an amount of from about 10 wt. % to about 50 wt. %.

19. (original): The composition according to Claim 18, wherein the hydroxypropyl cellulose is present in an amount of from about 30 wt. % to about 40 wt. %.

20. (original): The composition according to Claim 1, which is in the form selected from the group consisting of a tablet, granules, bar, block, disc, capsule, caplet and powder.

21. (currently amended): A method of preparing a stable pharmaceutical composition comprising about 1 wt. % to about 80 wt. % of an ACE inhibitor or a pharmaceutical acceptable salt thereof, about 1 wt. % to about 70 wt. % of an alkali or alkaline earth metal carbonate, and about 1 wt. % to about 80 wt. % of a low-substituted hydroxypropyl cellulose, wherein the ACE inhibitor is selected from the group consisting of quinapril, enalapril, spirapril, ramipril, perindopril, indolapril, lisinopril, alacepril, trandolapril, benazapril, libenzapril, delapril, cilazapril and combinations thereof; wherein the formation of an internal cyclization product, and/or ester hydrolysis product, and/or oxidation product, has been reduced or eliminated, and the weight percents are based on the total weight of the pharmaceutical composition, said method comprising:

- (a) mixing the ACE inhibitor or a pharmaceutical acceptable salt thereof, an alkali or alkaline earth metal carbonate, hydroxypropyl cellulose, and optionally one or more excipients, to form a premix;
- (b) adding a solvent, and optionally one or more excipients, to the premix formed in Step (a) to form a wet granulation;
- (c) drying the wet granulation to form granules, and optionally milling the granules; and
- (d) optionally mixing one or more excipients with the granules to form a pharmaceutical composition.